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THE STAR BRAND™
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--THE WHITE HOUSE
GUEST-STARRING
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NEW UNIVERSE™

THE STAR BRAND

The **Star Brand**... the most potent object of power the Earth has ever seen. Where it came from, how it arrived on Earth, and what energies it employs are all unfathomable mysteries. Whosoever wields its power can do virtually anything. The only limitation to its use is the imagination and courage of its wielder.

So far, two men of Earth have possessed its power. The first, known only as the *Old Man*, was a Dutch count who acquired the Star Brand some 500 years ago. He kept the power a secret while it grew inside his body, aging his body very slowly. Eventually he realized that the power was too unstable for him to ever control, and on July 22, 1986, the Old Man tried to transfer its power to an asteroid. The flash of energy caused by the transfer atomized the asteroid and sent the Star Brand's awesome energies cascading into space, bombarding the Earth with mutagenic energy. This occurrence, dubbed the White Event, lasted less than two seconds, but had worldwide consequences. Two human beings in every million were affected by those energies and began to change, assuming paranormal forms and abilities.

Realizing that he still possessed a fraction of its nigh-infinite power, the Old Man passed the Star Brand along to another human being, Pittsburgh-born car mechanic *Kenneth Connell*. *Connell* employed the Star Brand energies for months, fending off the Old Man's efforts to test his abilities, and finally decided to assume the dual identity of a costumed hero. But when *Connell* realized that he could not wield the power wisely enough, he too tried to transfer the power to an inanimate object. Soaring ten miles above his home, *Connell* transferred the Star Brand power into a bent dumbbell. This action caused the Star Brand's alien to obliterate everything within a 50-mile wide sphere around it, including the city of Pittsburgh. *Connell*'s body itself was disintegrated in the Black Event, but has since been resurrected by the power of the Star Brand.

Now, the new wielder of the Star Brand, **Jacob Burnley**, goes to New York City...

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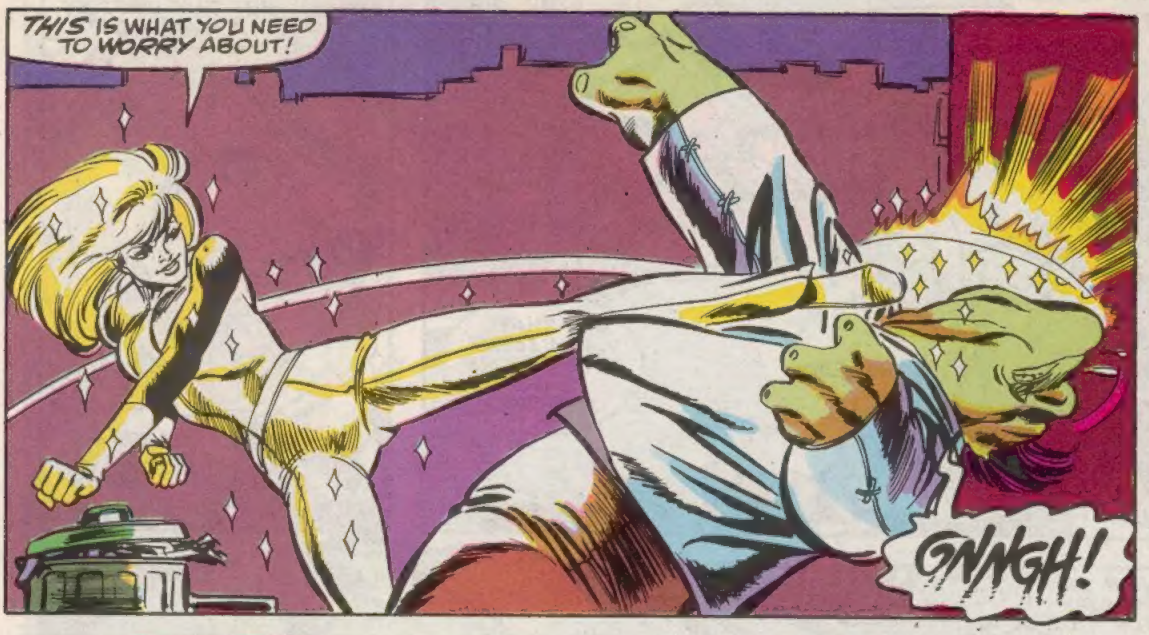
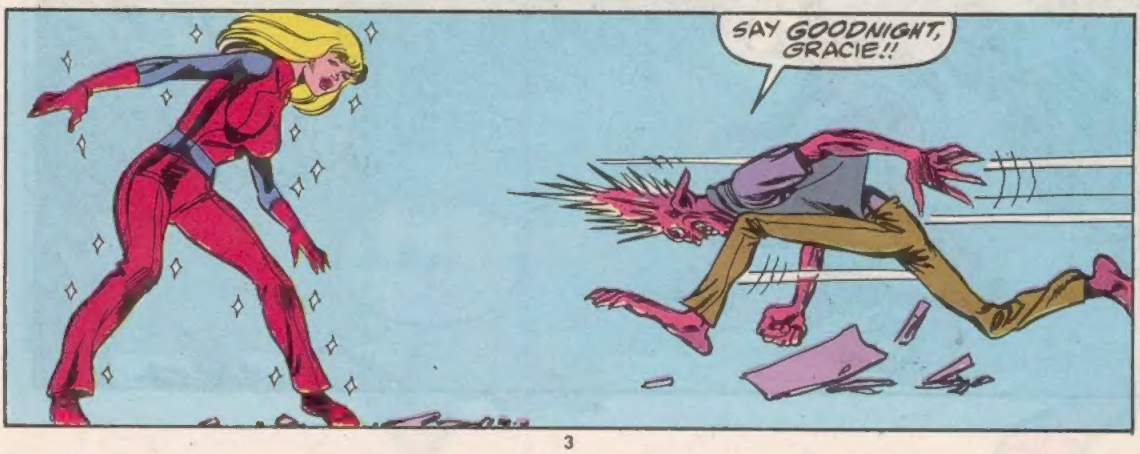
WE, THE PEOPLE
WELL, NOW...
I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE DOING THAT...
...DO YOU?

NEW YORK CITY--PARANORMAL CAPITAL OF NORTH AMERICA...
...UNOFFICIALLY.
HUH?
ANOTHER DAME...
MORE'N JUST A DAME, PINHEAD
A BABE!!
MANIAC
VOIGT WING!!
COME TA JOIN TH' PARTY, DIDJA, SWEETFACE?
WE DON'T MIND. WE'D MUCH RATHER PLAY WIT' YOU THAN THIS BAG A' BONES...
CAREFUL, SPOTTY.
WATCH OUT F'R THEM SPARKLES...
OH, DON'T WORRY YOURSELVES ABOUT THEM, BOYS.
THEY'RE JUST DECORATION.


THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT!
GNNGH!

SPOTTY!!
HOLY SPIT!! AIN'T NOBODY EVER DONE THAT T'SPOTTY!!
NOT SINCE HIM AN' ME GOT CHANGED...
YA JUS' MADE A BIG MISTAKE, CUTEY.
SHOW HER WHY, PINHEAD.

YEAH!
YEAH!!
IT'S BEEN WEEKS SINCE I SPIKED A DAME!
CHAK
CHAK
TCHAK-
ACHAK

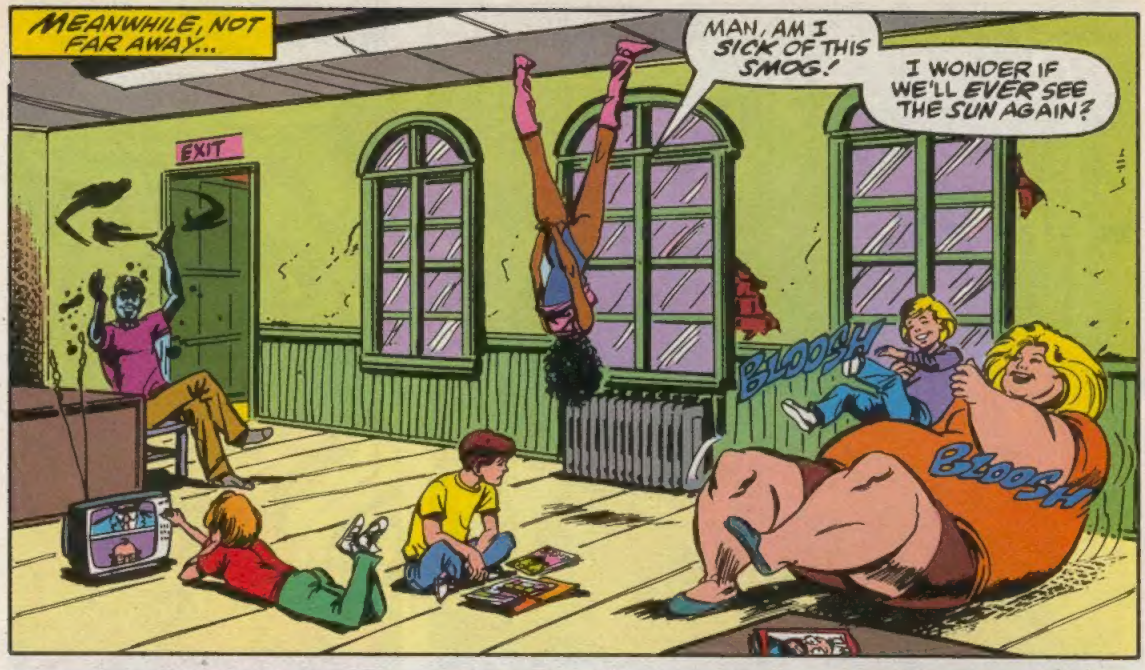

SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE!!

OH, PLEASE!
I WAS DODGING BETTER RUSHES THAN THAT WHEN I WAS JUST A CHEER-LEADER IN SHEBOYGAN!
AND THAT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE I GOT SPECIAL!
Whoa!
NOT BAD, GIRLIE. BUT THAT WAS JUST A WARM-UP.
TAKES ME A WHILE T'GET UP T'STEAM.
NOW I'M READY FOR YOU!!
UH-OH...

LEAVING!
WHAT A GOOD IDEA!
DAV-- ER...
MASTODON!
RIGHT HERE, STEPHIE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF A BIT OF A PROBLEM!
WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW IS HOW HE GOT SO BIG SO FAST.
IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO GET TO MY PRESENT SIZE.
CAREFUL, DAVID.
YOU'VE NEVER GONE UP AGAINST ANYTHING THIS BIG!
LET'S SEE IF THIS GOLIATH HAS THE STRENGTH TO MATCH HIS SIZE!
WHOM

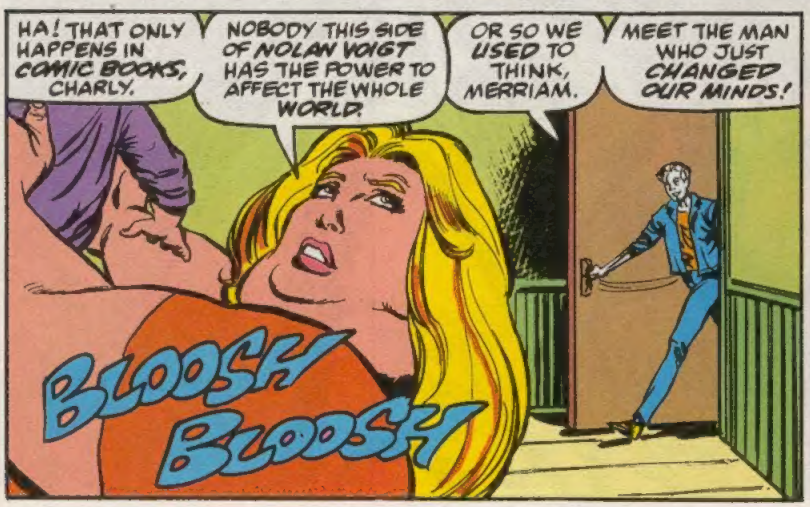
THAT THE BEST YOU GOT, BALDY?
THINK MAYBE I'LL KNOCK YOUR HEAD ALL TH' WAY T' POUGHKEEPSIE.
HUH??
HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT...??
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE A TWO-HANDED JOB, MASTODON.
YOU HIT HIM LOW...
... AND I'LL HIT HIM HIGH!

IT DIDN'T WORK!
HE'S JUST LAUGHIN' IT OFF!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
HOW CAN ANY HUMAN BE SO POWERFUL...
...EVEN A PARANORMAL??
WELL, LIKE YOU SAY, MISS...
...IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
VOIGT 88
??
WHO ARE YOU? WHO'S HE?
HEY! THAT'S THE CREEP FROM THE ALLEY..!
BUT HE TURNED INTO--
NO, HE DIDN'T.
HE JUST MADE YOU THINK HE DID.


MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...
EXIT
MAN, AM I SICK OF THIS SMOG!
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER SEE THE SUN AGAIN?
BLOOSH
BLOOSH

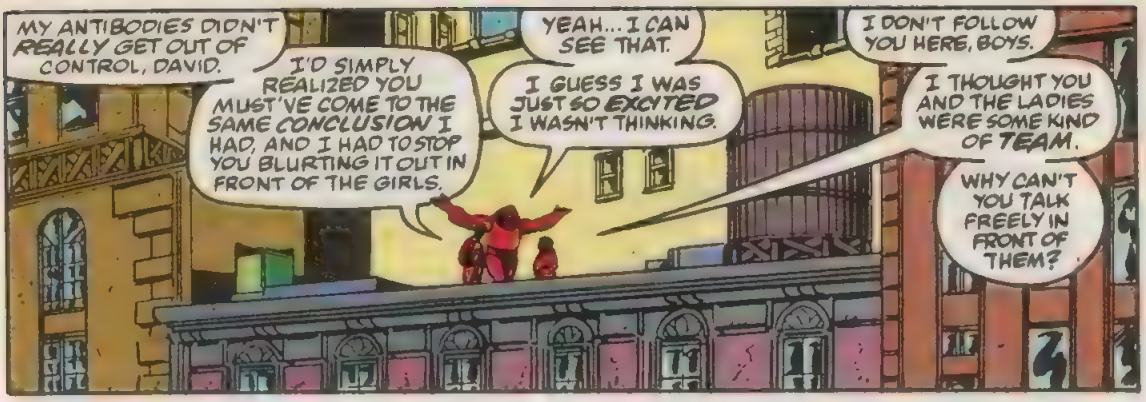
WELL, THAT'S PRIMARILY THE "NUCLEAR WINTER" EFFECT CAUSED BY THE VOLCANO GROWING WHERE PITTSBURGH USED TO BE.
SO FAR, IT'S PRETTY MUCH CONFINED TO NORTH AMERICA. IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE--

I WASN'T REALLY LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER, RANDY.
I'M JUST BORED.
BORED AND FRUSTRATED.
WHAT GOOD ARE OUR WEIRD POWERS ANYWAY? THEY WON'T HELP US FIND JOBS-- OUTSIDE A FREAK SHOW, THAT IS. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH 'EM-- SAVE THE WORLD?


HA! THAT ONLY HAPPENS IN COMIC BOOKS, CHARLY.
NOBODY THIS SIDE OF NOLAN VOIGT HAS THE POWER TO AFFECT THE WHOLE WORLD.
OR SO WE USED TO THINK, MERRIAM.
MEET THE MAN WHO JUST CHANGED OUR MINDS!
BLOOSH
BLOOSH

HI. JACOB BURNLEY'S TH' NAME.
CALL ME JAKE.

AND SO...
...BUT IF THAT BIG MONSTER WAS JUST SOME KIND OF HYPNOTIC ILLUSION, WHAT WERE ME AND JEN HITTING?
THE SIDE OF A BUILDING.
LUCKY I HAPPENED ALONG WHEN I DID, TOO. ANOTHER COUPLE OF HITS AND YOU'D'VE DEMOLISHED IT.
BUT YOU WERE ABLE TO USE THIS STAR BRAND POWER OF YOURS TO SHUT DOWN THAT PARANORMAL'S HYPNOTIC ZAP...?
AND YOU SAY YOU COULD PROBABLY DO IT TO ANY PARA-NORMAL...?
HEY! MAYBE YOU COULD USE IT AGAINST--
HEY!
OH... ER... SORRY, DAVE. GUESS MY ANTIBODIES ARE A LITTLE FRISKY TODAY.
OH, YEAH?
WELL, KEEP 'EM UNDER CONTROL, RANDY OR I'LL MAKE ANTIBURGERS OUT OF 'EM.
SURE, SURE. ER... DAVID, MR. BURNLEY...
WHY DON'T US GUYS TAKE A LITTLE STROLL...?
HUH?

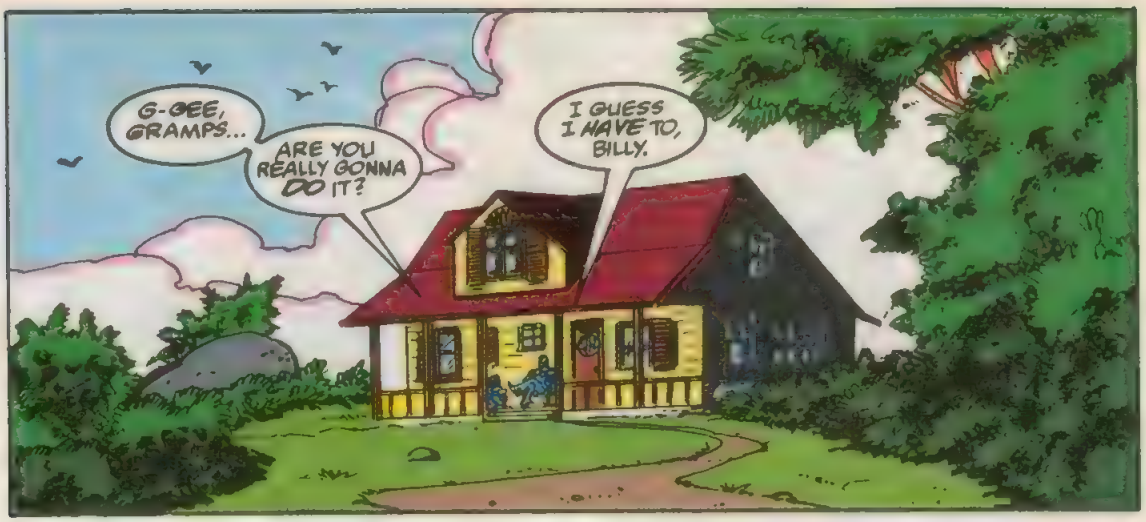

MY ANTIBODIES DIDN'T REALLY GET OUT OF CONTROL, DAVID.
I'D SIMPLY REALIZED YOU MUST'VE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION I HAD, AND I HAD TO STOP YOU BLURTING IT OUT IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS.
YEAH... I CAN SEE THAT.
I GUESS I WAS JUST SO EXCITED I WASN'T THINKING.
I DON'T FOLLOW YOU HERE, BOYS.
I THOUGHT YOU AND THE LADIES WERE SOME KIND OF TEAM.
WHY CAN'T YOU TALK FREELY IN FRONT OF THEM?

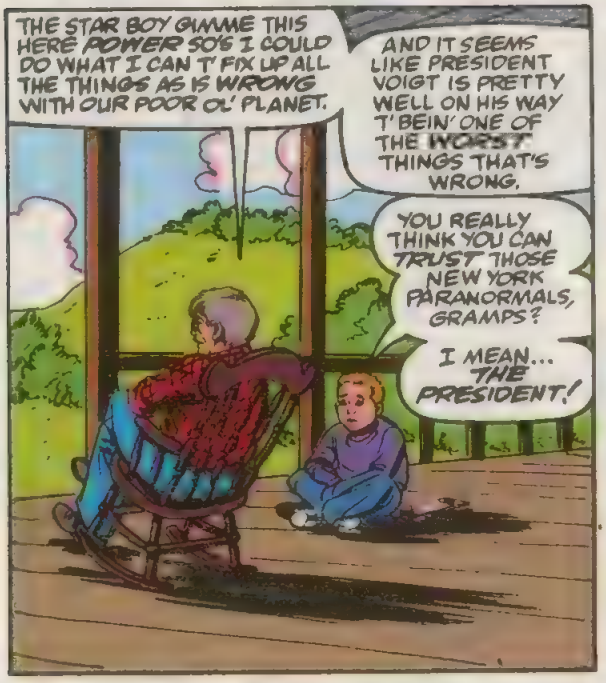
WE ARE FRIENDS, MR. BURNLEY.
ONLY RIGHT NOW THE WOMEN ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PARANORMAL WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED -- EXCEPT MAYBE FOR YOU.
IF DAVE OR I DO ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH HIS PLANS, HE'LL MENTALLY COERCE * CHARLY, JENNY, STEPHANIE, AND MERRIAM TO KILL THEMSELVES.
WHY... THAT'S TERRIBLE!
* DP 7 # 28.

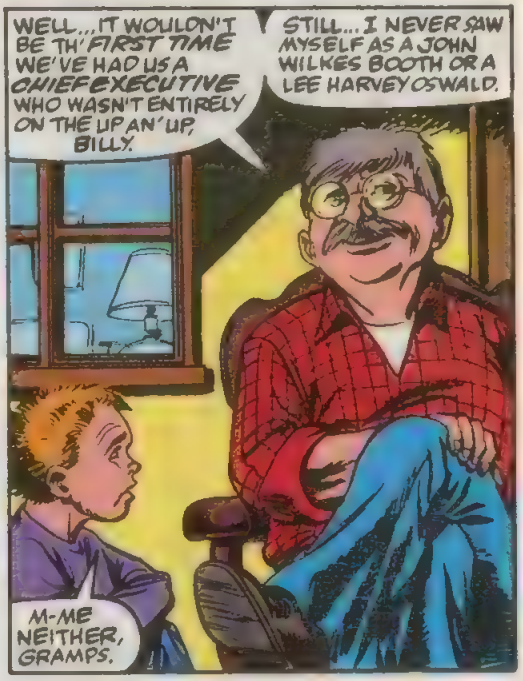
YOU SAID IT.
BUT WHAT OCCURRED TO ME -- AND WHAT RANDY'S ANTIBODIES STOPPED ME FROM BLURTING OUT -- IS THAT MAYBE YOU COULD STOP VOIGT.
"VOIGT?"

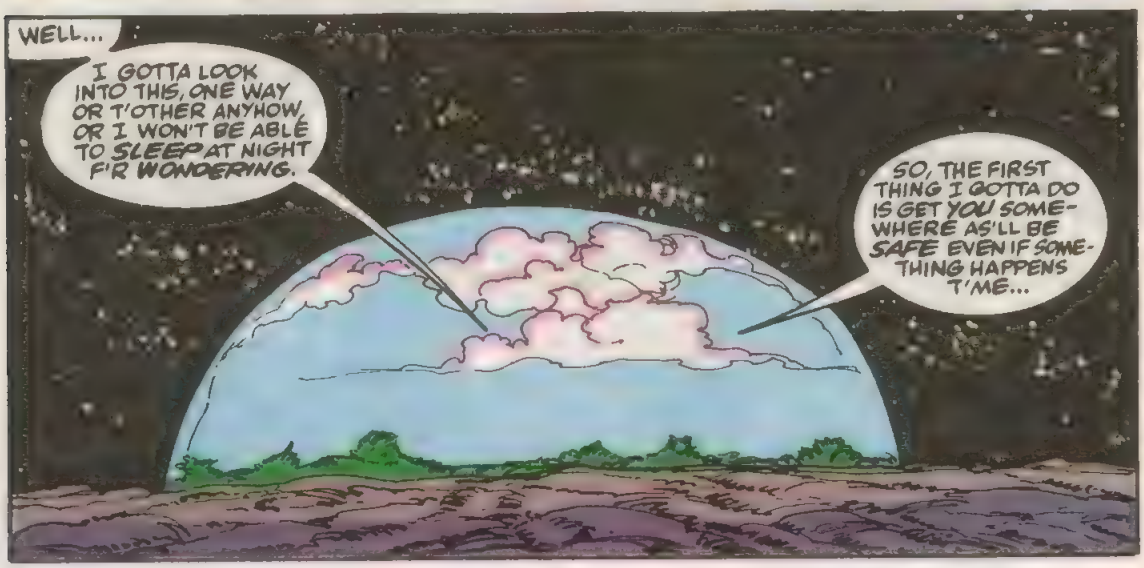
YES.
OUR FOE IS PHILIP NOLAN VOIGT...
...THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!

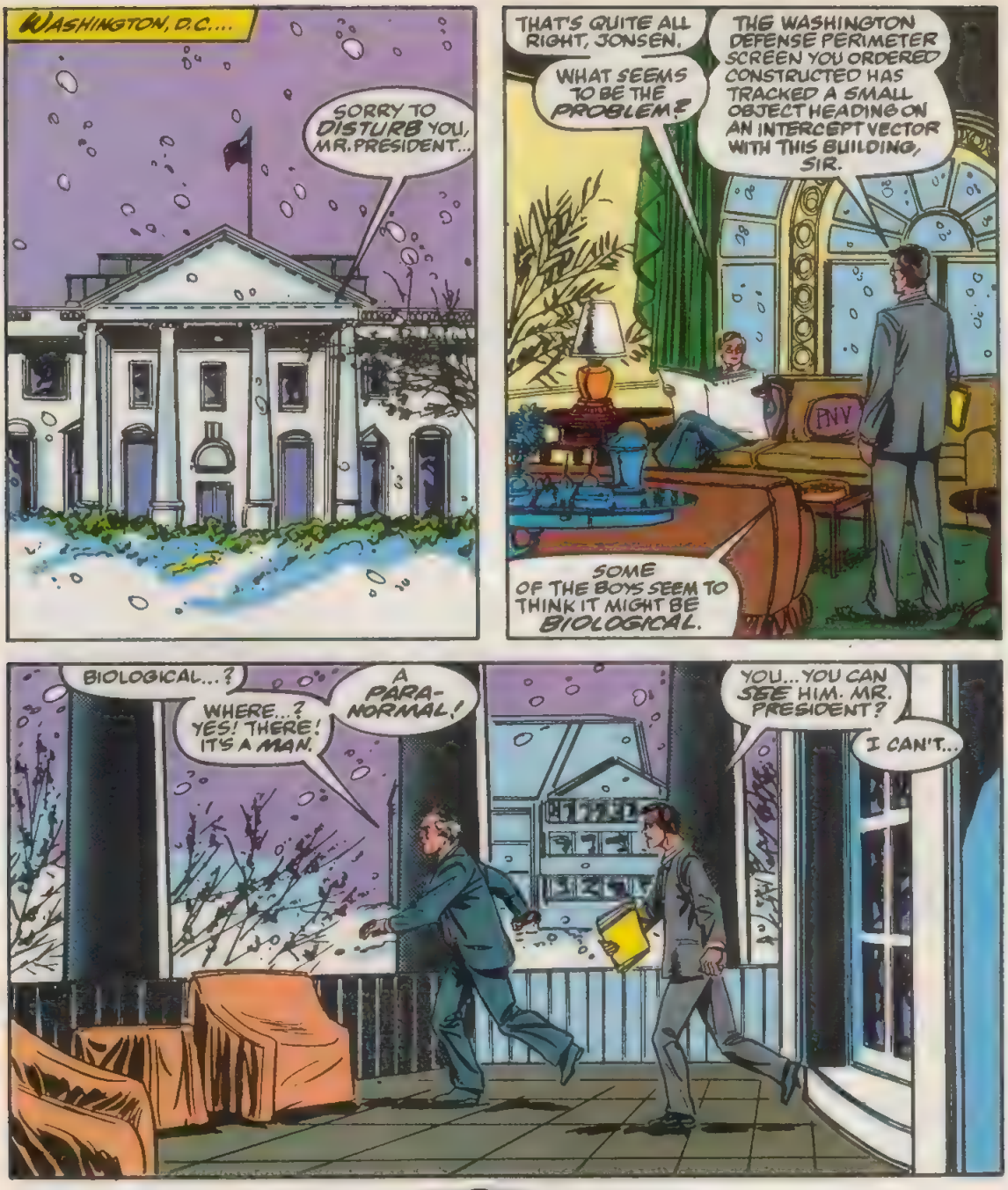
MEANWHILE, ROUGHLY FIVE HUNDRED MILES WEST...
NO ONE WANTS TO HELP ME.
NO ONE WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND.
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD BEFORE.
THERE WAS NEVER ANYONE WHO REALLY CARED ABOUT ME.
IT WAS ONLY FEAR. THEY WERE AFRAID OF ME.
AFRAID OF MY POWER.
THEY KNEW THEIR VERY LIVES WERE IN MY HANDS.
NOW THEY THINK I'M POWERLESS.
SO THEY SHUN ME. THEY MOCK ME.
BUT I'LL SHOW THEM. I'LL SHOW THEM ALL.
THE POWER WILL BE MINE AGAIN. I'LL BE BACK!
YOU HEAR THAT, WORLD??
KEN CONNELL WILL BE BACK!!!


G-GEE, GRAMPS...
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA DO IT?
I GUESS I HAVE TO, BILLY.

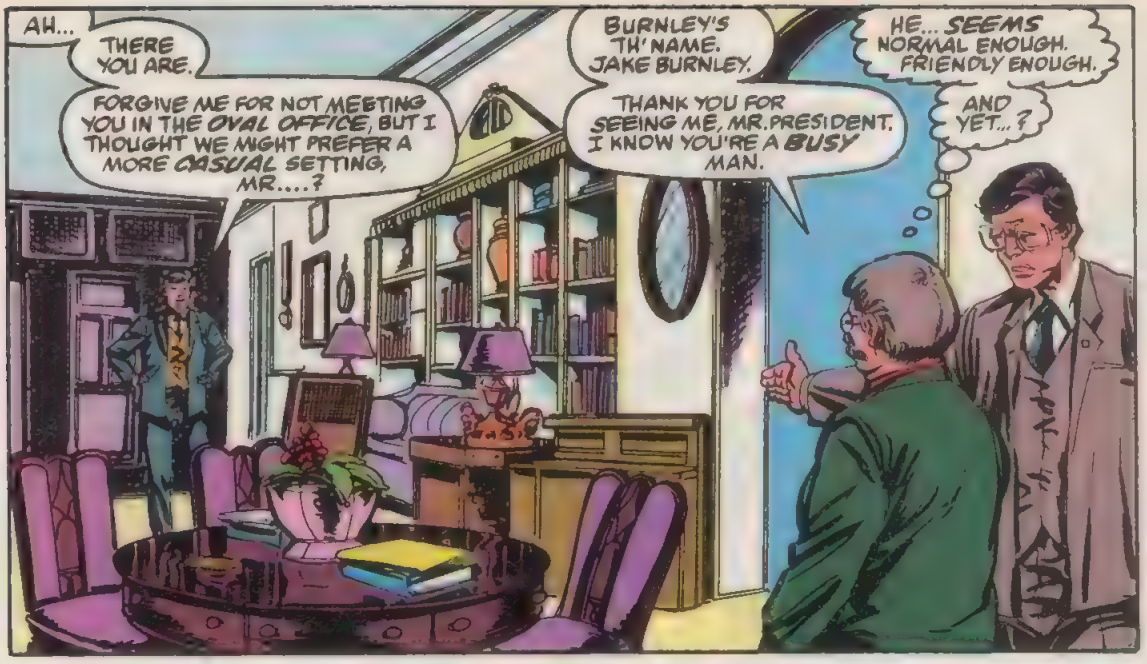

THE STAR BOY GIMME THIS HERE POWER SO'S I COULD DO WHAT I CAN T' FIX UP ALL THE THINGS AS IS WRONG WITH OUR POOR OL' PLANET.
AND IT SEEMS LIKE PRESIDENT VOIGT IS PRETTY WELL ON HIS WAY T' BEIN' ONE OF THE WORST THINGS THAT'S WRONG.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TRUST THOSE NEW YORK PARANORMALS, GRAMPS?
I MEAN... THE PRESIDENT!

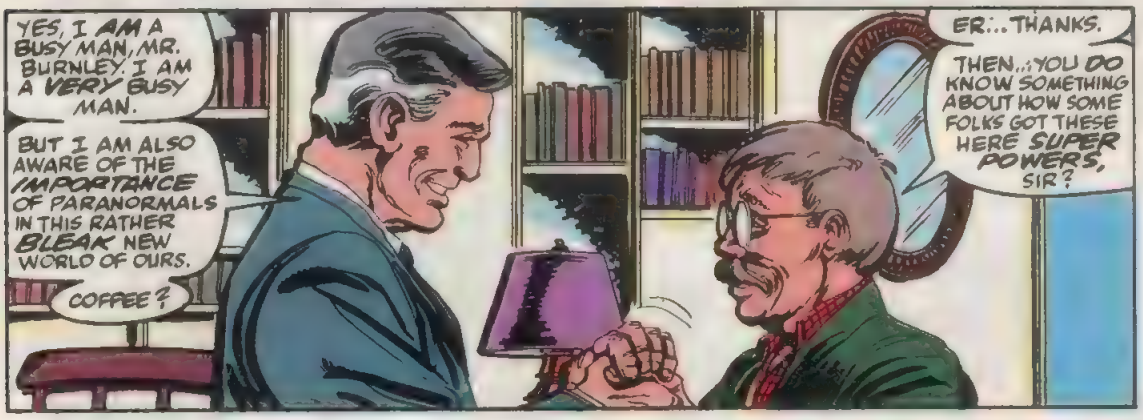

WELL... IT WOULDN'T BE TH' FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD US A CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHO WASN'T ENTIRELY ON THE UP AN' UP, BILLY.
STILL... I NEVER SAW MYSELF AS A JOHN WILKES BOOTH OR A LEE HARVEY OSWALD.
M-ME NEITHER, GRAMPS.

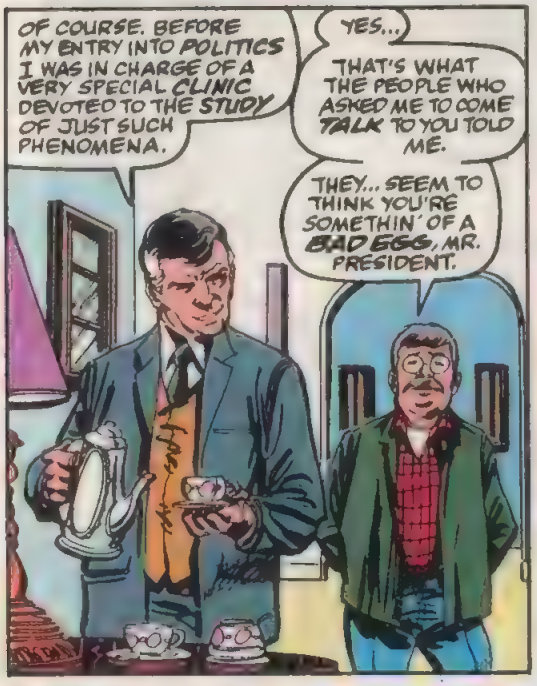

WELL...
I GOTTA LOOK INTO THIS, ONE WAY OR T'OTHER ANYHOW, OR I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT F'R WONDERING.
SO, THE FIRST THING I GOTTA DO IS GET YOU SOMEWHERE AS'LL BE SAFE EVEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS T'ME...


WASHINGTON, D.C....
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, JONSEN.
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
THE WASHINGTON DEFENSE PERIMETER SCREEN YOU ORDERED CONSTRUCTED HAS TRACKED A SMALL OBJECT HEADING ON AN INTERCEPT VECTOR WITH THIS BUILDING, SIR.
SOME OF THE BOYS SEEM TO THINK IT MIGHT BE BIOLOGICAL.
BIOLOGICAL...?
WHERE...? YES! THERE! IT'S A MAN.
A PARA-NORMAL!
YOU...YOU CAN SEE HIM, MR. PRESIDENT?
I CAN'T...
THE PRESIDENT HAS TO HAVE POWERS AND ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN, JONSEN.
INFORM THE STAFF WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.

THERE SHE IS! THE WHITE HOUSE!
ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT WASHINGTON. STRANGE THAT I NEVER GOT AROUND TO IT IN SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS!
I CAN STILL REMEMBER ALL THE THINGS MRS. PARMENTER TAUGHT US BACK IN GRADE THREE HISTORY CLASS.
JOHN ADAMS WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO LIVE HERE, STARTIN' IN 1800. THAT WAS EIGHT YEARS AFTER JAMES HOBAN WON TH' COMPETITION TO DESIGN THE PLACE.
AND, 'COURSE IT WAS BURNED BY THE BRITISH IN 1814...
FUNNY TO THINK THAT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE DANGERS THIS OLD HOUSE FACES TODAY...
I SURE HOPE THOSE YOUNGSTERS IN NEW YORK WERE MISTAKEN ABOUT PRESIDENT VOIGT.
I'M NOT SO SURE OF THIS POWER OF MINE THAT I'D WANT TO RISK SOME KIND OF FIGHT RIGHT HERE IN TH'...
GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR. YOU ARE EXPECTED.
PRESIDENT VOIGT WILL SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY.

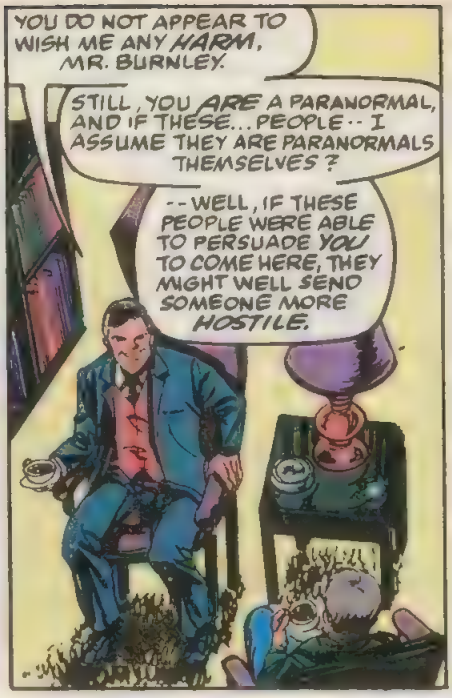

AH...
THERE YOU ARE.
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT MEETING YOU IN THE OVAL OFFICE, BUT I THOUGHT WE MIGHT PREFER A MORE CASUAL SETTING, MR....?
BURNLEY'S TH' NAME. JAKE BURNLEY.
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME, MR. PRESIDENT. I KNOW YOU'RE A BUSY MAN.
HE... SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH. FRIENDLY ENOUGH.
AND YET...?

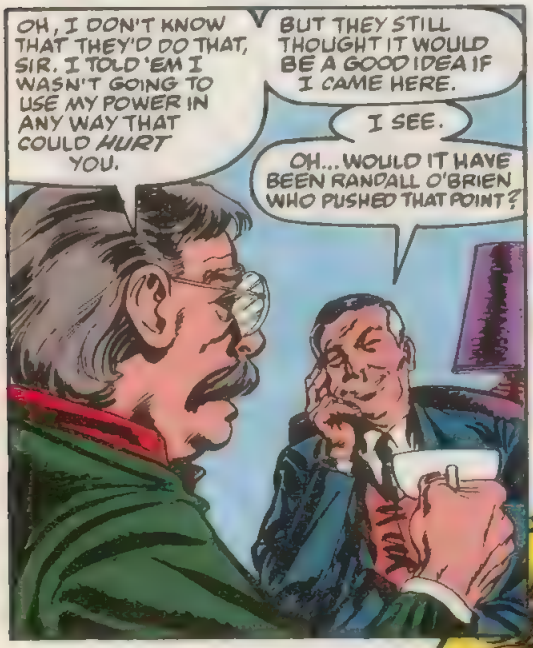

YES, I AM A BUSY MAN, MR. BURNLEY. I AM A VERY BUSY MAN.
BUT I AM ALSO AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PARANORMALS IN THIS RATHER BLEAK NEW WORLD OF OURS.
COFFEE?
ER... THANKS.
THEN... YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HOW SOME FOLKS GOT THESE HERE SUPER POWERS, SIR?

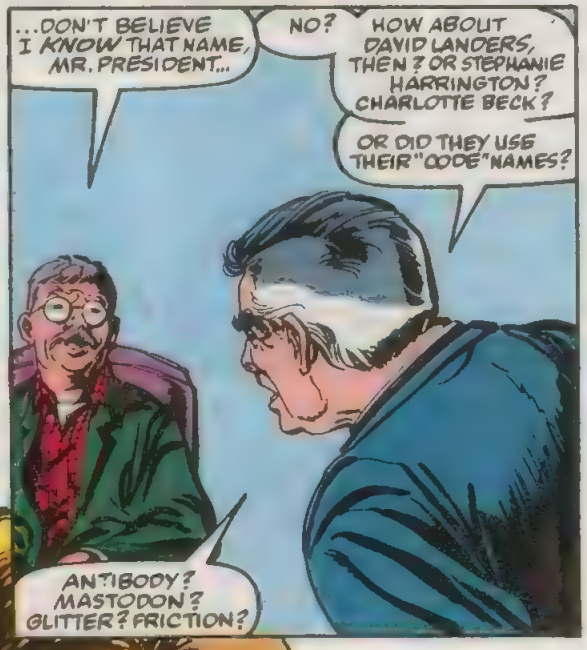

OF COURSE. BEFORE MY ENTRY INTO POLITICS I WAS IN CHARGE OF A VERY SPECIAL CLINIC DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF JUST SUCH PHENOMENA.
YES...
THAT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE WHO ASKED ME TO COME TALK TO YOU TOLD ME.
THEY... SEEM TO THINK YOU'RE SOMETHIN' OF A BAD EGG, MR. PRESIDENT.

DO THEY, INDEED?
WELL, I SUPPOSE EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE GEORGE WASHINGTON HAS HAD HIS FAIR SHARE OF DETRACTORS.
WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE, BY THE WAY?
ANYONE I SHOULD KNOW?

ER...WELL, SIR, I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK I'M BEIN' RUDE...
WELL, LIKE I SAID, SIR, I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M BEIN' RUDE...
OF COURSE NOT, MR. BURNLEY--
...BUT THEY ASKED ME NOT TO TELL YOU THAT. AN'... I THINK UNTIL I'M CLEAR IN MY OWN MIND ABOUT ALL THIS...
HAVE A SEAT, WON'T YOU?
--BUT YOU MUST ALSO REALIZE THERE IS A MATTER OF SECURITY HERE.


YOU DO NOT APPEAR TO WISH ME ANY HARM, MR. BURNLEY.
STILL, YOU ARE A PARANORMAL, AND IF THESE... PEOPLE -- I ASSUME THEY ARE PARANORMALS THEMSELVES?
--WELL, IF THESE PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE YOU TO COME HERE, THEY MIGHT WELL SEND SOMEONE MORE HOSTILE.


OH, I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'D DO THAT, SIR. I TOLD 'EM I WASN'T GOING TO USE MY POWER IN ANY WAY THAT COULD HURT YOU.
BUT THEY STILL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF I CAME HERE.
I SEE.
OH... WOULD IT HAVE BEEN RANDALL O'BRIEN WHO PUSHED THAT POINT?


...DON'T BELIEVE I KNOW THAT NAME, MR. PRESIDENT...
NO?
HOW ABOUT DAVID LANDERS, THEN? OR STEPHANIE HARRINGTON? CHARLOTTE BECK?
OR DID THEY USE THEIR "CODE" NAMES?
ANTIBODY? MASTODON? GLITTER? FRICTION?

I THINK THE TIME FOR PLAYING GAMES IS PAST NOW, MR. BURNLEY.
YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS HAVE BEEN FOOLISH. VERY, VERY FOOLISH.
AND THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR FOOLISHNESS...

MEANWHILE...
JUPITER. LARGEST PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM...
ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.
I HAVE SPENT MANY WEEKS SEEKING AN ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY OF THE ORIGIN OF THIS STAR BRAND POWER...
NOW THAT I HAVE FOUND IT, I CAN SCARCELY CREDIT IT.
FOR THIS TO HAVE HAPPENED THE UNIVERSE MUST HAVE FOLDED IN ON ITSELF FOR ONE BRIEF INSTANT.
THAT IS A DANGEROUS THING TO HAVE HAPPENED.
WERE IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN, THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE TOO TERRIBLE TO COMPREHEND.
NO...
IT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
ONCE AND FOR ALL THE STAR BRAND POWER MUST BE ERADICATED.
AND THOUGH IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MEAN MY OWN DESTRUCTION, I MUST BE THE INSTRUMENT OF THAT ERADICATION!

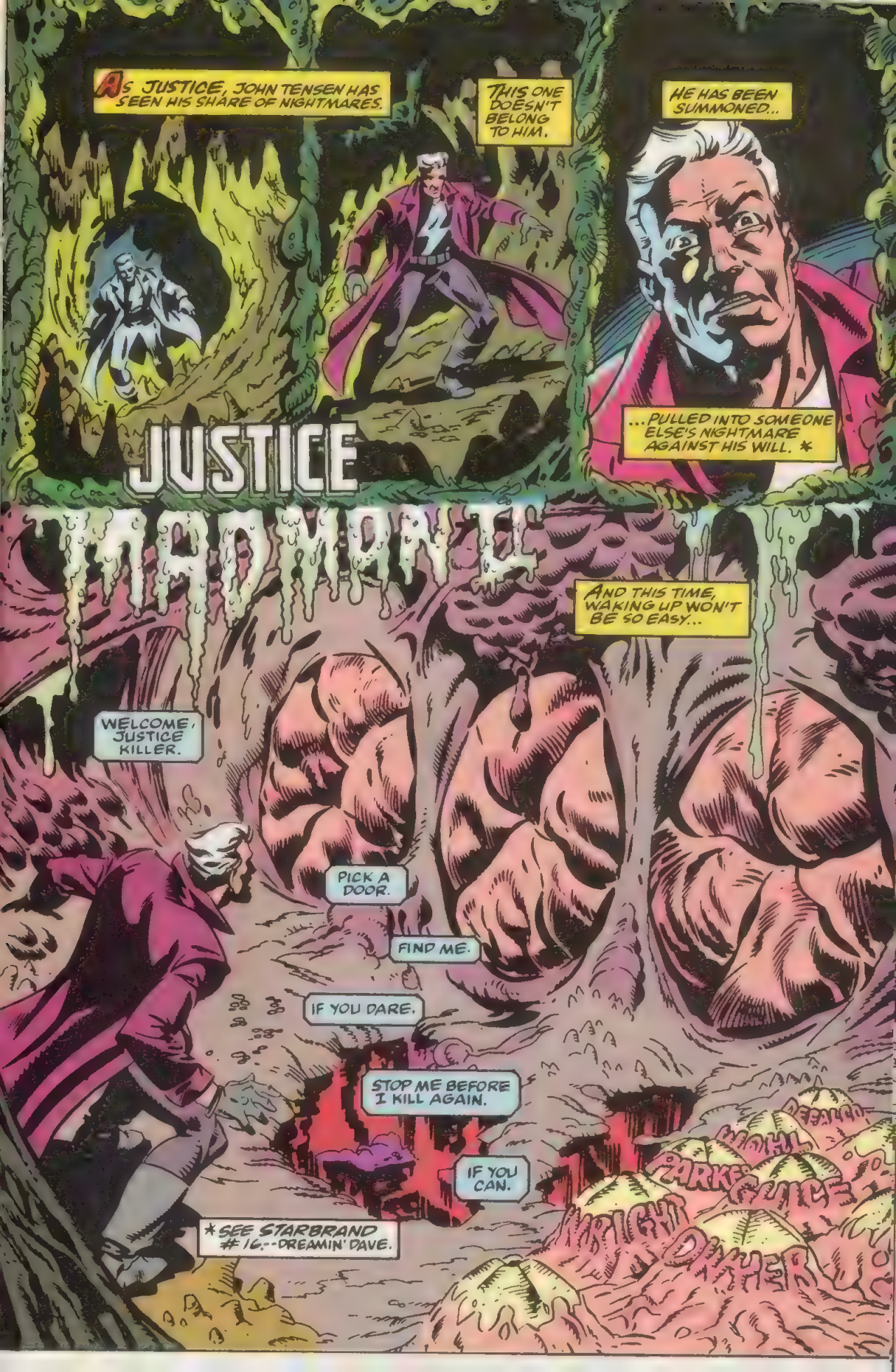
YOU'RE MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE, VOIGT.
"MISTER PRESIDENT!"
REMEMBER THAT, BURNLEY! IN ADDITION TO BEING THE MOST POWERFUL PARANORMAL...
...I ALSO HOLD THE MOST POWERFUL OFFICE ON EARTH!
HOLD IT, MAYBE. BUT YOU DON'T DESERVE THE RESPECT IT'S DUE.
AND AS TO YOU BEIN' THE MOST POWERFUL PARANORMAL..
...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE ABOUT THAT!
WHA...?!
??
I... NEVER GUESSED YOU WOULD HAVE SUCH RAW POWER, BURNLEY.
BUT "RAW" IS THE KEY WORD. YOU ARE NEW AT THIS. I CAN TELL.
WHILE I HAVE BEEN REFINING MY POWERS FOR OVER TWO YEARS NOW!!

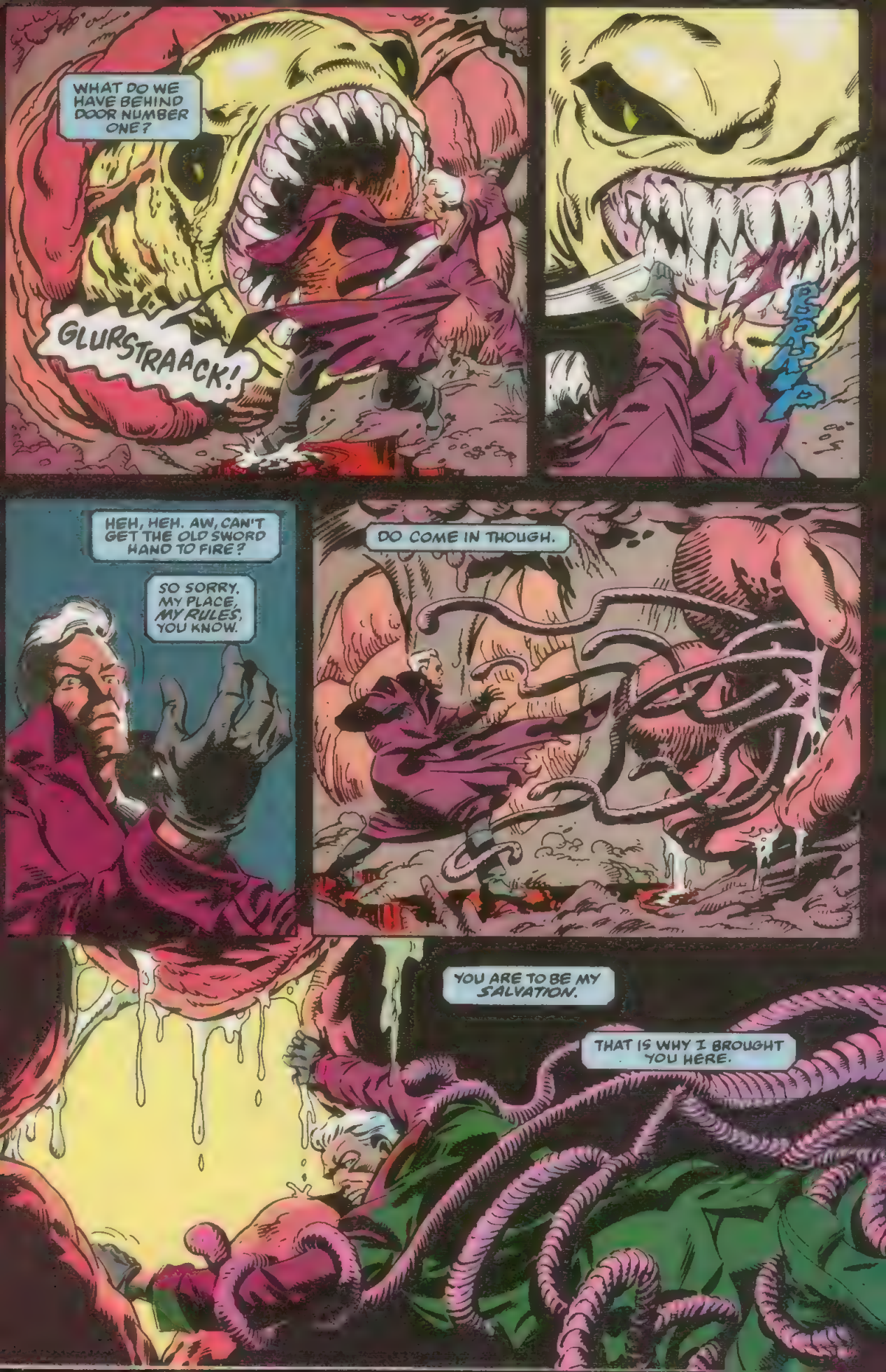
THERE IS NOTHING I CANNOT DO, BURNLEY.
NOTHING!
I CAN SUMMON THE POWER OF EVERY PARANORMAL ON EARTH, IF I WISH.
AND MORE! I CAN WIELD EACH OF THOSE POWERS AS IF IT WERE MY OWN!
DO TELL.
I SEE A LOT OF FLASH AN' FIZZLE, VOIGT...
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I THINK MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY POWER.
IT'S A PIECE OF THE ORIGINAL POWER, VOIGT.
THE POWER THAT GENERATED TH' WHITE EVENT. THE POWER THAT CREATED ALL THE PARANORMALS.
THE POWER THAT DESTROYED PITTSBURGH.

MAYBE YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE POWERS, VOIGHT.
BUT I'M BETTIN' YOU CAN'T HAVE 'EM ALL AT ONCE!
...NO...
...LET GO...
I'M BETTIN' YOU CAN'T BE BIG AND SMALL...
...FIRE AND ICE!
TRY IT, VOIGHT!
SEE HOW YOUR PARASITE POWER CAN HANDLE...
...EVERYTHING!!!

MR. PRESIDENT!
MISTER PRESIDENT!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, JONSEN!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
OH MY GOD!
OH... MY... GOD!!
HE'S ALIVE!
BUT ONLY JUST!
CALL THE PARAMEDICS!!
THE OLD GUY...
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HE'S... DEAD.
WHAT THE HECK CAN HAVE HAPPENED HERE...??

NEW YORK CITY...
I...GUESS WE SHOULD FACE UP TO THE OBVIOUS, BILLY.
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS WITHOUT ANY WORD OUT OF WASHINGTON.
VOIGT MUST'VE WON.
OH, DON'T BE SO SURE OF THAT, YOUNG FELLA.
GRAMPS!!
YOU'RE OKAY!!
GRAMPS?
THAT'S JAKE BURNLEY??
YEP. THE STAR BOY WARNED ME THIS MIGHT HAPPEN IF I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET MYSELF KILLED. SOME KIND OF "REGENERATIVE FORM," HE CALLED IT. I WAS ABLE TO SNEAK OUT OF THE MORGUE WHEN IT BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE.
THE RESURRECTION IS PERMANENT, THE LOOK IS TEMPORARY...
AND... VOIGT?
WHAT ABOUT VOIGT?
HE'S ALIVE, BUT POWERLESS.
I DUMPED EVERYTHING I'VE GOT INTO HIM. TRIGGERED ALL HIS PARANORMAL POWERS AT ONCE. BURNED HIM OUT.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ANY KIND OF THREAT TO YOU OR YOUR LADY FRIENDS EVER AGAIN.
THEN...
...WE'VE WON!!
MMM...
MAYBE, BIG FELLA.
I WONDER...
FINALE


As JUSTICE, JOHN TENSEN HAS SEEN HIS SHARE OF NIGHTMARES.
THIS ONE DOESN'T BELONG TO HIM.
HE HAS BEEN SUMMONED...
...PULLED INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S NIGHTMARE AGAINST HIS WILL. *
JUSTICE
MADMANTL
AND THIS TIME, WAKING UP WON'T BE SO EASY...
WELCOME, JUSTICE KILLER.
PICK A DOOR.
FIND ME.
IF YOU DARE.
STOP ME BEFORE I KILL AGAIN.
IF YOU CAN.
* SEE STARBRAND #16.--DREAMIN' DAVE.


WHAT DO WE HAVE BEHIND DOOR NUMBER ONE?
GLURSTRAACK!
BRAP
HEH, HEH. AW, CAN'T GET THE OLD SWORD HAND TO FIRE?
SO SORRY. MY PLACE, MY RULES, YOU KNOW.
DO COME IN THOUGH.
YOU ARE TO BE MY SALVATION.
THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE.

SO, WHY DON'T YOU... HA, HA, HEE, HEH... HANG AROUND?
CAN'T FREE YOURSELF?
BAH! YOU ARE NO CHALLENGE.
I WAS FOOLISH TO EVEN CONSIDER THAT YOU COULD FREE ME FROM MY TORMENT.
STILL...
EVEN WITH THE HUNDREDS OF SOULS I'VE CONSUMED, I AM STILL TRAPPED.
A KID WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF NIGHTMASK BROUGHT YOU TO MY ATTENTION.
SO I BROUGHT YOU HERE--
--TO BRING ME HOME!
SKROUNCH

KILL ME, JUSTICE KILLER. SAVE ME. SAVE MANKIND. I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF, AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT'S ALL SO MUCH FUN SOMETIMES, I'D JUST AS SOON STAY HERE!
THOK
THIS MAN IS INSANE! I MUST TRY HARDER TO DRAW MY SWORD--
--FOR VENGEANCE!
HA-HA-HAHAHAHA
HA-HA-HAA! MY PLACE, MY RULES!!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE MY SHIELDS SHOVED DOWN YOUR THROAT, LAUGHING BOY!

ARRRAUGH!
SHIELDS EXPANDING INSIDE HIM. THAT SHOULD--
FWA-
PWOAM
--TEAR HIM TO PIECES!
UHHN... ANOTHER COUPLE OF FEET AND I'D HAVE FALLEN INTO THE ABYSS!
NOW THIS IS DIFFERENT!
IT'S BOGUS, MAN!
UNPREDICTABILITY TO THE LAST.
VOICES?

LET US FIND A SEA-WORTHY SHIP AND SET SAIL!
I WONDER IF THIS MEANS WE NEED MORE SOULS?
LET'S FIND A CHAIN-SAW!
SMEH!
I SAY WE GET RID OF THE BIG GUY!
:SOB: NOW WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
GOSH, THIS PLACE IS BIG!
YEAH! OVER THE EDGE!!
THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD ROAST BEEF..
CAN'T HANG ON--
HURRAY!!
YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE WITHOUT MY PROFOUND THANKS.
I ONLY WANTED TO BE SURE THAT I COULD NOT BE DESTROYED.

IN A PLACE FAR AWAY, JOHN TENSEN AWAKENS FROM THE NIGHTMARE VERY MUCH ALIVE.
VERY UNSURE OF ITS REALITY.
HERE, IN THE MIND OF A MADMAN IT IS CERTAIN REALITY.
DEADLY CERTAIN.
ONE WOULD THINK "WHAT HARM COULD A MAN IN A STRAIT JACKET LOCKED UP IN A RUBBER ROOM CAUSE?"
THIS MADMAN CAN PULL YOU INTO HIS DREAMS AND KILL YOU.
FOR REAL.
FOR KICKS.
AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
JUST GOT THE REPORT FROM REMSEN AT FORT BENNING.
SAYS OUR MADMAN PARANORMAL JUST MIGHT BE THE ONE KILLIN' FOLKS IN THEIR SLEEP.
KID'LL BE HERE AT 3 P.M. IF THIS GUY CHECKS OUT, WE'LL HAVE TO LOBOTOMIZE HIM.
Philadelphia Star
SLEEP OF DEAT
342 DIE IN SLEEP - NO CAUSE K
SCIENTISTS BAFFL
LAWRENCE COUNTY NIGHTMARE
GRUENWALD JAILED AGAIN
END.

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THE OFFICIAL TIMELINE OF THE NEW UNIVERSE™

August 23, 1986
FRITZ KROTZE fails in his second attempt to take the MAX II armor back from JENNY SWENSEN and her group of M.I.T. students.
(SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #2)

August 28, 1986
After two months at the dream research clinic, KEITH REMSEN visits his family home in Georgetown, Maryland for the first time since his parents' death in a terrorist bombing. To help an old friend, REMSEN enters a dream for the first time without his sister THEODORA'S assistance or guidance, becoming more adept at entering and leaving dreams at will.
(NIGHTMASK #3)

August 31, 1986
In Green Bay, Wisconsin, high school freshman DENNIS CUZINSKI (SCUZZ) first manifests his paranormal power to dissolve matter with a highly corrosive substance produced through his skin while lying in bed.
(D.P.7 ANNUAL #1)

September 1, 1986
GERALDINE RUMLOW (VICE VERSA) and EDWARD ZENTNER (BLOODHOUND) enter The Clinic with the parabilities to redirect inertia, and a paranormally heightened sense of smell, respectively. VOIGT takes them under his private tutelage.

September 3, 1986
ARTHUR BENWAY (FREEFALL) enters The Clinic with the parability to mentally negate gravity within ten feet of his person, and is placed in Therapy Group B.

September 5, 1986
RODNEY WEIGAND (TANGLER) enters The Clinic with the parability to create psychoplasmic tanglewire of incredible tensile strength, and is placed in Therapy Group B.

September 6, 1986
JACK MAGNICONTE attempts in vain to use his murdered brother's Intensifier to give three other members of his football team paranormal powers similar to his, not realizing his powers stemmed from the White Event, not the machine.
(KICKERS INC. #1)

SALLY GALLAGHER (SHOCK) enters The Clinic with the parability to produce high voltage electrical current, and is placed in Therapy Group B.

September 8, 1986
DEBORAH BROWNLEA (DEMENTIA) enters The Clinic with the parability to create temporary insanity in others, and is placed in Therapy Group B.

September 9, 1986
MAGNICONTE, with his wife, DARLENE, and members of his football team, THOMAS SMYTHE, BEAUFORD WOHL, and DALLAS CORBIN, create KICKERS INC., a non-profit help agency, as a way of using his paranormal powers for good.
(KICKERS INC #1)

LENORE FENZL (TWILIGHT) enters The Clinic with the parability to produce fatigue-inducing bioluminescence capable of rendering any living being unconscious after several seconds exposure. Traumatized by her parability, she refuses to join group therapy.

September 12, 1986
SWENSEN attacks KROTZE INTERNATIONAL to gather information to prove KROTZE was responsible for her father's death. In the SPITFIRE armor, she is attacked by KROTZE-directed U.S. Army troops.
(SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLE-SHOOTERS #3)

SHARP, RUMLOW, and ZENTNER are sent to VOIGT'S newly-formed paranormal detection agency based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

September 15, 1986
While in class, college sophomore CHARLOTTE BECK (FRICTION) first manifests her paranormal power to create or remove adhesion and friction between any two surfaces.
(D.P.7 ANNUAL #1)

September 16, 1986
CURTIS SMITH (STALAGMITE) enters The Clinic with the parability of exponentially increased strength when standing stationary. He joins Therapy Group B.

September 17, 1986
MARTIN MURKEN (WORMHOLE) enters The Clinic with the parability to mentally create small interspatial apertures, permitting matter to pass into one hole and out another. He joins Therapy Group B.

September 18, 1986
GEORGE MULLANEY (MUTATOR) enters The Clinic with the paranormality of a constantly mutating body which gives him a totally different appearence every 48 hours. Traumatized by his parability, he does not enter group therapy.

September 19, 1986
In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, McDonald's manager JEFFERY WALTERS (BLUR) first manifests his paranormal power of superhuman speed while at work.
(D.P.7 ANNUAL #1)

September 20, 1986
In Readfield, Wisconsin cheese factory worker DAVID LANDERS (MASTODON) begins manifesting his paranormal power of superhuman strength and endurance as his body undergoes massive muscular enlargement.
(D.P.7 ANNUAL #1)

September 21, 1986
PAMELA LEIGHTON (INTERFACE) enters The Clinic with the parability to produce powerful pheromones able to usurp others' wills while she touches them. She joins Therapy Group B.

September 23, 1986
STEPHANIE HARRINGTON (GLITTER) enters The Clinic with the parability to produce biokinetic energy augmenting her own physical abilities and those of others. She is assigned to Therapy Group C.

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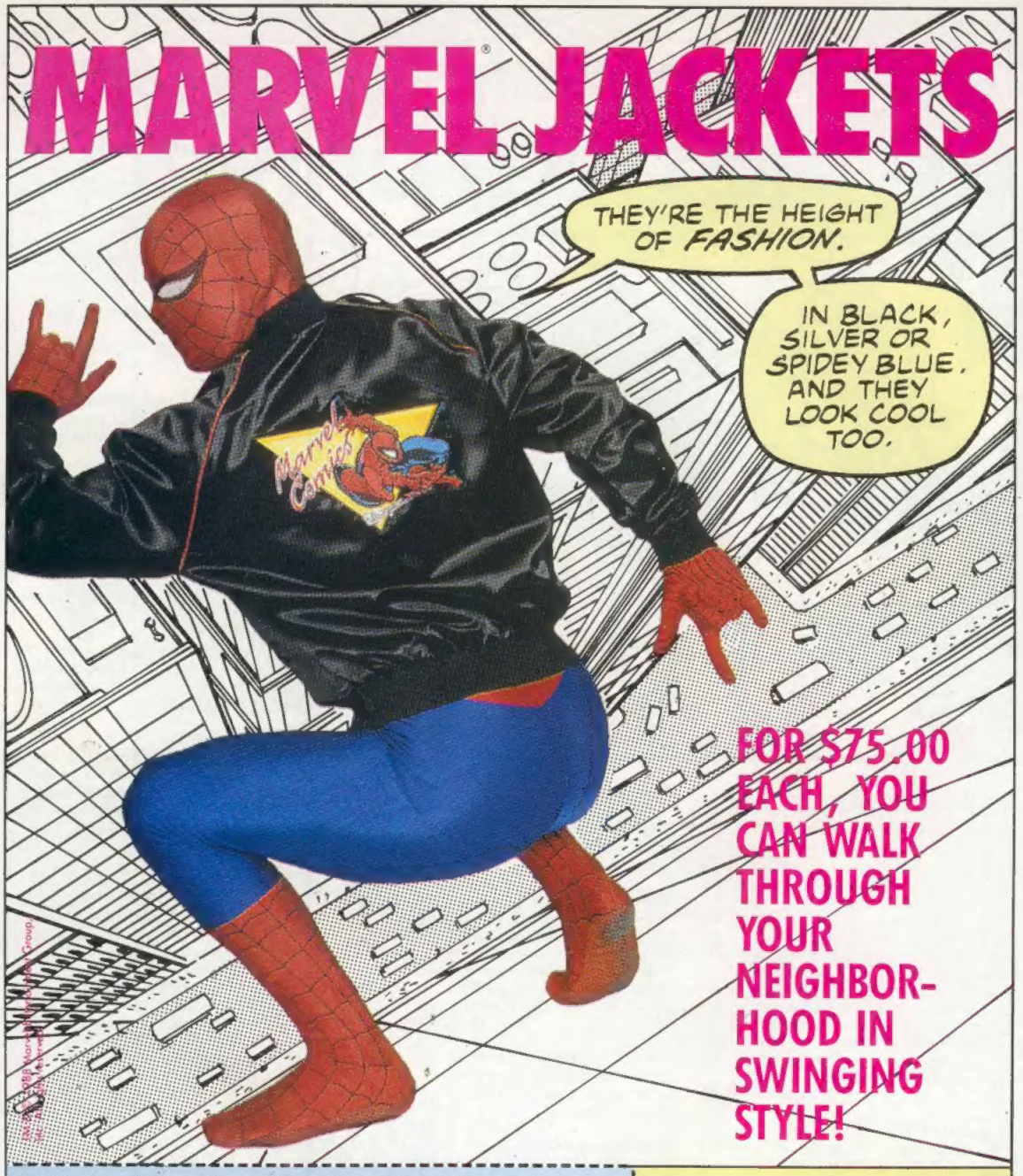

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